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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: CLEMENTS, JAMES G., *et al.*

Serial No: 09/837,241

Filing Date: April 18, 2000

Title: Multi-well Plate & Method of Manufacture

Art Group Unit: 1743

Examiner: Elizabeth S. Quan

RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RESPONSE TO THE FIRST OFFICE ACTION

In response to the Office Action dated March 13, 2003, designated as Paper No. 7, in the above-captioned application, please enter the following amendments and Remarks as follows:

Please cancel claims 1-12.

Please add new claims 51-91 as follows:

51. A multiwell plate for use in assaying samples, comprising:

a frame, which forms sidewalls of at least one well, the frame being formed from an organic polymeric material;

a layer, which forms a bottom of at least one well;

said well bottom having an average optical flatness of about 10 microns or less across a width of each individual well; and in the absence of an adhesive having a catalyst, at an interfacial region between said frame and said layer, at least a portion of said plate contains an energy-absorbing material, which when irradiated, bonds said frame and said layer to each other, wherein said organic polymeric material forms an interpenetrating polymer network.

52. The multiwell plate according to claim 51, wherein said energy-absorbing material is either an infrared (IR) absorbent material or magnetic particle.